

PELZ, ALFONSO  
MIDDLESEX, NJ

DRAWER 212

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Sculptors - P




# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Alfonzo Pelzer  
Middlesex, N.J.

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from  
State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/statuesofabrplinc>





"WITH MALICE TOWARDS NONE,  
WITH CHARITY FOR ALL,  
WITH FIRMNESS IN THE RIGHT,  
AS GOD GIVES US TO SEE THE RIGHT."







No. 15d. THE EMANCIPATOR  
BY ALFONSO PELZER





TELEPHONES—Bound Brook, N. J.

Watchung School, 293-W

Pierce School, 623-J

Parker School, 716-W

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX  
P.O.Box 601

P. O. BOUND BROOK, N. J. October 31st 1929 192

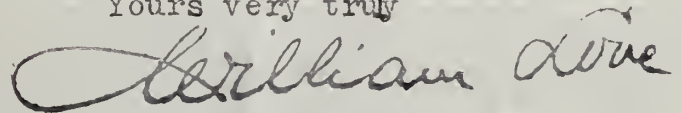
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Gentlemen:

Attention: Mr. L. A. Warren.

The statue referred to in your letter of August 15th was not erected by the school pupils. It was placed in its present position by Silas Dewey Drake when he developed that section of our Broough. This was long before the writer's time of twenty years residence here.

Yours very truly



Supervising Principal.

MDG



March 4, 1932

William Love  
Supervising Principal  
Board of Education  
Borough of Middlesex  
P. O. Bound Brook, N. J.

Dear Mr. Love:

I am writing you concerning a Lincoln statue which I understand is located in your territory somewhere. In a former letter from you is the statement that this memorial was placed in its present position by Silas Hovey Drake a long time ago.

I should very much appreciate it if you could tell me who was the sculptor of this statue, or, if this is impossible, to inform me where we may be able to obtain a picture of the work. Would you be so kind as to describe the pose, whether sitting or standing, etcetera?

The cost of the statue is also of importance, but this information may not be available, by virtue of the statue's having been erected so long ago. Perhaps you could also tell us the dimensions and the approximate height.

The enclosures may help you to understand our purposes.

Thanking you for this and other favors,  
I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation





Halethorpe-Baltimore,Md. June 8,1932

Miss Ethel Henneford

Assistant Director

Historical Lincoln Research Foundation,

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company,

Fort Wayne,Indiana

Dear Miss Henneford:-

Replying to your inquiry of June 3rd,in regard to the Lincoln monument(Statue) at Lincoln New Jersey,would advise that this a bronze Statue mounted on a base of granite blocks,and is located on the street side of the entrance to the Station Grounds of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

As my pictures of it had to be taken at about yhe worst time of the day when the sun was shining almost directly into the camera,they are hardly worth considering,but I am enclosing one or two of them. As far as I knw know there is not inscription on the base. I have been told that this statue was erected by subscription of the public school children of Lincoln. Lincoln is about two miles east of Bound Brook,the Junction of the Central Railroad of New Jer Jersey, The Reading, and the Lehigh Valley. Would suggest that you write direct to the U.S.Postmaster,Lincoln New Jersey or to Mr. R.B.White,President of the Central Railroad of New Jersey,Jersey City,N.J. Mr.White probably will be the best one to get in touch with. Sincerely yours

E. L. Bangs

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

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Baltimore, Md. June 25th, 1932

Dear Miss Henneford:-

Your letter received, and I note that I failed to enclose the prints of the Lincoln, N.J. Lincoln Statue. I am therefore sending you the three exposures which I made of it. As I believe I mentioned in my previous letter, the unsuitable time, that I had to make the exposures in makes the prints rather unsatisfactory. But they are the best I have. Three are of the Lincoln N.J. statue, taken at different angles.

The remaining card may show you one you are already familiar with. It is the Lincoln Statue on the left side of the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial. The corresponding niche on the other side of the building contains the statue of The War Governor of Pennsylvania, Governor Curtin. The Lincoln statue is a fine one, and if you do not happen to have it. I am sure you will want to include it. It is in bronze. Just what its history is I do not know, but by writing to the Secretary of State of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg, you will, doubtless obtain complete data regarding it

Sincerely yours

E. L. Bangs







## THE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY

REAL ESTATE, TAX AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL BUILDING, 143 LIBERTY STREET,

NEW YORK,

L. M. HANNAFORD,  
REAL ESTATE AND TAX AGENT  
R. C. SLACK,  
ASST. REAL ESTATE AND TAX AGENT

June 20, 1932

Miss Ethel Henneford  
Assistant Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

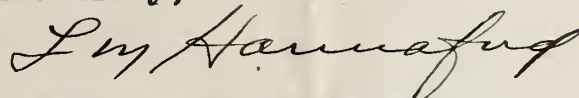
Dear Madam:-

Your letter of June 13th, addressed to Mr. R. B. White, President of this Company, in reference to Lincoln Statue at Lincoln, N. J., has been referred to the undersigned.

I have secured some of the information which you desire and I hope to secure, within the next few days, some additional information, at which time I will communicate with you.

I am wondering, if in the event I am unable to secure a photograph of the statue, would you care to go to the expense of having a commercial photographer take a photograph of this statue. If so, I will arrange to have it done and transmit bill to you. XX

Yours truly,



Real Estate &amp; Tax Agent

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## THE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY

REAL ESTATE, TAX AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL BUILDING, 143 LIBERTY STREET,

NEW YORK,

L. M. HANNAFORD,  
REAL ESTATE AND TAX AGENT.R. C. SLACK,  
ASST. REAL ESTATE AND TAX AGENT.

June 24, 1932

Miss Ethel Henneford  
Assistant Director  
The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Miss Henneford:-

Supplementing my letter of June 20th, in reference to Lincoln Statue at Lincoln, N. J.

The foundation of the statue was laid on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, 1898. The statue was unveiled on Decoration Day, May 30, 1898. Mr. Silas D. Drake, President of the New Jersey Mutual Realty Company was chiefly responsible for having this statue erected in this location. He was the President of the Realty Company which developed what is now known as Lincoln, but is actually the Borough of Middlesex and at the time the statue was unveiled was the Township of Piscataway.

I have learned from Miss Emma Egel, 575 Mountain Avenue, Bound Brook, N. J., formerly Secretary for Mr. Silas D. Drake, much of the information which I have secured. The statue was manufactured by W. H. Mullins, Salem, Ohio; A. Pelzer, sculptor.

The following inscription is on the base of the monument:

"With malice toward none  
With charity for all  
With firmness in the right  
As God gives us to see the right."

I have been unable to find the cost of the statue and I have also been unable to secure a photograph of it. As I have previously advised you, if you so desire, I will arrange for a photographer to take a picture of it and if you conclude to have it done, I would like to know just what size photograph you would like to have.

From what I have learned from Miss Egel, Mr. Drake was a very ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and it was for this reason that he gave the name of Lincoln to his Real Estate Development and erected the statue in his memory.

Yours truly,

*L. M. Hannaford*  
Real Estate & Tax Agent.

"THE TRAIL OF THE BLUE COMET"

SPEED AND COMFORT

NEW YORK AND ATLANTIC CITY







# Gleaming Bronze day Anniversary



—Photo by Kinsley

**STATUE CLEANED BY YOUTHS**—The life size statue of Abraham Lincoln which stands in a small park in Lincoln Blvd., Middlesex, received a cleaning and polishing last week by civic minded youths of the borough who are shown standing next to the monument of the Great Emancipator. Left to right are Samuel Ozeranski, Emil Vogt, Frank De Angelis, Richard Fay and Joseph Ciamacco. Not shown, but on the committee, are Oscar Thornas and Daniel Donateli.



# 10-Year Grime Off Middlesex Statue

Middlesex—Once again civic pride has come to the rescue of the neglected statue of Abraham Lincoln which stands in the small park in Lincoln Blvd. The monument, which was unveiled with great ceremony on Memorial Day, May 30, 1898, was a ghastly gray-green from the ravages of years and indifference until last week when it was restored to its original shiny bronze by a group of young men who toiled without recompense to make the life-size statue glisten again for its 50th birthday Monday.

Almost 10 years have elapsed since the last and only cleaning, and then, too, a group of youths fired with civic pride undertook the task which no borough group or organization had thought of tackling.

## Aroused by Comment

Aroused by a comment from Patrolman Stanley E. Kulpak that The Courier-News would run a story on the condition of the monument, Emil Vogt, Richard Fay, Samuel Ozaranski, Joseph Ciamaceo, Oscar Thomas and Frank De Angelis went to work and attempted to clean and polish the statue of the Great Emancipator.

Working for six hours, they first cleaned small sections with muriatic acid and then polished with steel wool and rags before application of the varnish which now makes the statue gleam as it did when it was unveiled.

The acid was donated by the Bakelite Corporation and instructions for its use were given by Otto Boehm, superintendent of the plant. Bakelite also supplied rubber gloves, vinylite aprons and face shields. The borough supplied varnish, paint for the base, and brushes.

## Originally Faced Station

The village of Lincoln was little more than a real estate development when the cornerstone of the monument was laid on Feb. 12, 1898. Silas Dewey Drake, first mayor of Lincoln, has been credited with the erection of the statue which was fashioned by a Salem, Ohio, sculptor whom history identifies as A. Pelzer. Originally facing the station, the monument was later turned around to face the boulevard. Back in those waning years of the last century before the village was incorporated into Middlesex Borough, early citizens of the community pointed with pride to the memorial, but since then interest has gradually died and is only revived once in a great while through newspaper articles and comments. However, Memorial Day this year will find a renovated, gleaming monument to the great president in place of the neglected and dull statuary whose condition has almost belied the words of Lincoln carved on its base:

"With Malice Towards None,  
With Charity for All,  
With Firmness in the Right  
As God Gives Us to See the  
Right."

(over)







## MIDDLESEX PUBLIC LIBRARY

741 BOUND BROOK ROAD  
MIDDLESEX, N. J. 08846

TEL. 968-1499

June 30, 1970

Lincoln National Life Foundation, Inc.  
1301 South Harrison Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

Gentlemen:

We understand that you have a leaflet with information pertaining to a statue of Abraham Lincoln, one of which is located in Middlesex, New Jersey.

Would you please send us this leaflet, and any other information you might have regarding this statue.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

*Flora S. Ingalls*  
(Mrs.) Flora S. Ingalls,  
Director

FSI:jm



46801

July 6, 1970

Middlesex Public Library  
741 Bound Brook Road  
Middlesex, N. J. 08846

Attention: Mrs. Flora S. Ingalls

Dear Mrs. Ingalls,

We have your letter of June 30 inquiring about the statue of Abraham Lincoln which is located in Middlesex, New Jersey. I am sending you the issues of Lincoln Lore which mention this statue, but we have never done a special article on this particular piece of sculpture.

The sculptor was Alonzo Pelzer. The statue of Abraham Lincoln was unveiled on Memorial Day, May 30, 1898 in the village of Lincoln, New Jersey. The village was little more than a real estate development when the cornerstone of the monument was laid on Feb. 12, 1898. Silas Dewey Drake, the first mayor of Lincoln, has been credited with the erection of the statue which was fashioned by a Salem, Ohio, sculptor, identified as "A. Pelzer," in one of our old newspaper clippings. According to the newspaper, the monument originally faced the station, but was later turned around to face the boulevard. In later years, the village was incorporated into Middlesex Borough. On more than one occasion (notably the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the statue) civic minded citizens have seen fit to clean and polish the statue, evidently unaware that a good piece of bronze should be permitted to weather naturally and should never be cleaned.

Silas D. Drake, the man who was chiefly responsible for having the statue erected at this location, was president of the New Jersey Mutual Realty Company which developed the town know then as Lincoln, in the Township of Piscataway. The statue was manufactured by W. H. Mullins, Salem, Ohio. Mr. Drake was an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and for this reason gave the name of Lincoln to his real estate development, and erected the statue in his memory.

I hope this information will be of help to you.

Sincerely,

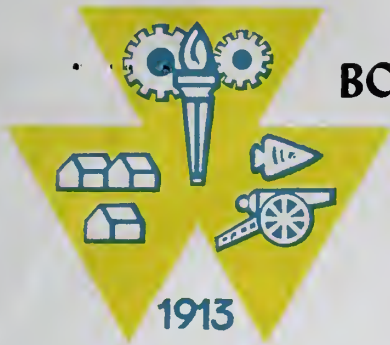
(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins  
Asst. to the Director

rph/









# BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF  
MARTIN S. MATUSKIEWICZ  
MAYOR

August 25, 1970

Lincoln National Life Foundation  
1301 So. Harrison Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

Gentlemen:

We are compiling a history of Middlesex Borough and are attempting to get information about a statue of Abraham Lincoln, which stands in a section of our town called Lincoln, and about which very little is known.

We have been referred to your group, after contacting area libraries, the New Jersey Historical Society and the New Jersey State Library. We hope you may be able to give us facts about this statue which are unavailable from these other sources of reference.

If there is any charge for this service, please let us know.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Martin S. Matuskiewicz', is written over the typed name.

Martin S. Matuskiewicz  
Mayor

/mvh



46801

August 27, 1970

Hon. Martin S. Matuskiewicz  
Mayor of Middlesex, New Jersey  
Municipal Building  
Middlesex, New Jersey 08846

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of August 25 inquiring about the statue of Abraham Lincoln which stands in a section of your town called Lincoln.

The sculptor was Alonzo Pelzer. Your statue is known as Pelzer's "original Lincoln statue" which was cast in bronze by the William H. Mullins Manufacturing Company. (Enclosed are Xeroxed pages from the book "Lincoln in marble and Bronze" by F. Lauriston Bullard, which give you a history of the Pelzer sculptures.)

The cornerstone of the monument was laid on Feb. 12, 1898 and the statue was unveiled on May 30, 1898. Silas Dewey Drake, the first mayor of Lincoln was credited with the erection of the statue. He was president of the New Jersey Mutual Realty Company which developed the town of Lincoln, in the Township of Piscataway. Drake was an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and for this reason gave the name of Lincoln to his real estate development, and erected the statue in his memory.

According to a newspaper clipping we have, the statue originally faced the station but was later turned around to face the boulevard. In later years, the village was incorporated into Middlesex Borough. Civic minded citizens have from time to time attempted to "clean" the statue, apparently unaware that this is detrimental to a good piece of bronze.

I hope that this information will be of help to you. Incidentally, we do not have in our collection a really good photograph of this statue. If you might possibly have one you could send us, we would be grateful.

Very sincerely,

Ruth P. Higgins (Mrs.)  
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry

rph/



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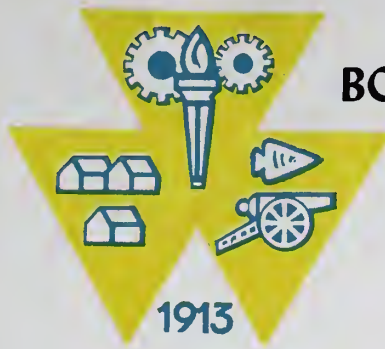
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# BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF  
MARTIN S. MATUSKIEWICZ  
MAYOR

October 26, 1970

The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Mrs. R. P. Higgins, Asst. to Director  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mrs. Higgins:


Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my letter inquiring about the Lincoln statue in our Borough. Also, thank you for the reprint from your collection of the origin and history of our statue. This information was invaluable to us in our attempt to learn more about the statue for our community. At the present time our Shade Tree Commission is replanting the area around the statue in an effort to beautify the surroundings since this statue is always one of the areas for ceremonies on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Fourth of July, Lincoln's birthday and a local tradition, Remembrance Day, celebrated by the Boy Scouts.

I am enclosing a picture of the statue for your collection and I will make every effort to see that your foundation is informed if there are any changes or events concerning this statue in the future. Also, I will try to see that the statue is not cleaned again.

You mentioned in your letter of August 27, 1970 that Silas Dewey Drake, who erected the statue, was the first Mayor of Lincoln. Actually, there never was a town of Lincoln here, only a geographic section, and Silas Drake never was Mayor. I hope you will forgive my presumptuousness, as I only wanted to help keep your records accurate.

I thank you again for your help on behalf of the citizens of Middlesex.

Very truly yours,

  
Martin S. Matuskiewicz  
Mayor

Enclosures

mm/dg



PELZER ALFONSO  
MODERNA, NJ

DRAWING 212

SCULPTORS - P

